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An EASIE and SAFE  
**METHOD**  
FOR  
**CURING**  
THE  
**King's Evil,**

Scrofulous Humours, white Swellings, &c.  
with several Observations of Diet and Air, which  
may be of Use and Service to People afflicted  
with those Distempers; also a large Account of  
many extraordinary Cures on Men, Women, and  
Children, with plain Reasons, why these Illnesses  
are not Curable by the Common and Known Me-  
thods of Physick and Surgery.

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In a Letter to a Friend.

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The Twelfth Edition.

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By WILLIAM VICKERS, M. A.

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*The Lord hath created Medicines out of the Earth, and he that  
is wise will not abhor them, and hath given Men Power and  
Skill, that he might be honour'd in his marvellous Works,*  
Ecclus. xxxviii. 5, 6.

Existimo Deum perfecte & sufficienter in Simplicibus com-  
posuisse completa morborum quorumcunque remedia.—  
Felix ille qui Simplicibus tuto atque prompte novit  
tollere & conculcare morbos. *Helmont.*

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An EASIE and SAFE

METHOD

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CURING

THE

King's Evil, &c.

S I R,



IN Compliance with your late Request, I here send you a short Account of my Method for curing the *King's-Evil*: A Distemper which you know I was extreamly afflicted with from my Infancy, and which continued many Years with that violence, that all Hopes of Cure were given over by my Friends and Self. The Distemper had seized both my Arms, my Right Hand, the Fore-Finger of my Left, and my Feet, to such a Degree, and with such Violence, that several Surgeons were of Opinion, that both Hands and

*The Author's Condition.*



Feet must be cut off. The Humour likewise fell with that Severity on my Eyes, that the Sight of each was judged irrecoverably lost. In fine, my whole Body became so extremely Weak and Feeble, with continual Runnings in so many Places, that for many Years I could neither go or stand without Crutches. In this miserable Condition, (without any Hopes or Prospect of Relief) I lived many Years, until it pleased God to direct me to the Knowledge of those Means, the extraordinary Effects whereof as much exceeded mine and all other Peoples Expectations, as the Benefit reaped did my Merits; by the Use whereof, God be praised, in a very few Months, I became perfectly Sound and Well. It's now more than twenty Years since I was healed, enjoying as good Health and Sight as most People do, without any Fear or Apprehensions of a Relapse, being able to endure the coldest Weather, to read until Midnight, and to walk as much Ground, every Day, as the Generality of People do, without suffering any Prejudice thereby. I once thought (as most People do) that the *King's Evil*, especially in such a high Degree as I had it, was incurable; and I had Reason to believe it, after so many Years Endeavours for a Cure had been spent to so little Purpose, concluding, that when the Attempts of many able and skilful Physicians had all along proved ineffectual, there remain'd nothing more to be done. As my sad Condition made me a diligent Enquirer after all sorts of Remedies; so I never declined the Use of any Means, which might give me the least Hopes of Success. I was stroked twice by King *Charles II.* and thrice by King *James II.* It's incredible, to tell the great Quantities of *Purges, Vomits, Diet-drinks, Alkalious Medicines, Lime-waters, Millipedes, Rue-Whitlow Grass,* and many other things, not excepting *Mercurial* and *Antimonial* Remedies, which I have taken in my Time; but nothing avail'd, until it pleas'd God, by a wonderful Providence, to direct



direct me to the Knowledge of this *Specifick*, which in its Effects exceeded all my Hopes and Expectations.

And because some have very high Thoughts of the two last named Medicines, (*viz.* *Mercurial* and *Antimonial*,) it may not be improper to acquaint you that I made several Trials thereof, but never reaped the least Benefit or Advantage from the Use of either. And I believe the *King's Evil* is of that peculiar Nature, so directly opposite to that Disease wherein *Mercurials* and *Antimonials* are so much used, that it's no wonder they are so unsuccessfully given, nay, sometimes are so very dangerous in these *Scrofulous Tumours*. In one Particular I was always very happy, *viz.* to reject a *Salivation*, a Remedy certainly worse than the Disease. For where it does not destroy Life, it entails so dismal a Train of Miseries, as a Man had better be buried alive than suffer. For my part, I should ever esteem that Man the best Physician, who attends to all future Consequences; who (as a certain Author saith) does not heal one Disease by procuring a worse, but restores such a Life as a Man can afterwards enjoy with Ease and Safety. Perhaps Craftsmen may not like these Reflections; but herein I act the Part of a Friend, which a wise Man accounts a very great Blessing; *A faithful Friend is the Medicine of Life, and he that fears the Lord shall find him.*

*Vid. Dr. Morton of Consumptions, p. 46.*

*Reflections upon Learning, p. 222.*

*Eccles. 6. 16.*

Now in order to give you some Account of this Cure on my self; I must inform you, that it providentially came into my Mind, to make Experiment of one single Remedy, believing, that Simplicity of Medicines would be as effectual; as that of Diet. The Use whereof, first of all, I begun internally, with five or six Grains, Morning and Evening, in a Glass of Spring Water; and for external Application, I us'd an Oint-



ment and Cerecloth, made with the same Remedy! This Method I continued some time; but afterwards with much greater Advantage, I infus'd a certain Quantity of this *Specifick Remedy* in a Gallon of Spring-Water, which, when it was fine and clear, became my constant Drink, absolutely abstaining from all other Liquors, except a Glass of Wine now and then, at Meals. When I had drunk of this *Specifick Water* eighteen or twenty Days, my Sores ran with a much greater Flux of Matter than ever before. Also several foul and rotten Bones, in several Joints, came forth, without any Pain or Trouble. And likewise some hard and unulcerated Swellings asswaged, and went away with the like Ease. My Strength also increased considerably, and my usual Pains (upon any sudden Change of Weather) ceased, with such a visible Alteration throughout my whole Constitution, that if I may so express it, I thought my self in a manner new created. Two Things I observ'd very strange and unaccountable: The First was, That whereas my Sores, for the first Month or six Weeks, ran so excessively, that one would have thought it impossible to subsist under so great a Discharge; yet my Strength daily increased; and the more plentifully the Humour spent it self this Way, the more hearty and strong I perceiv'd my self to grow. The other Thing I observed, was, That my *Urine*, after some time taking of this *Specifick Remedy*, became as thick and ropy, as if it had been blended with Whites of Eggs, or such like viscous Matter, which continu'd until all my Sores healed, as they did perfectly in about eight Months, or something less. During this Course, I never found the least Tendency or Disposition unto Sickness, or any other Inconveniency whatsoever, but such a difference for Ease, that there was no Comparison between this Method of Cure, and

*Its Effects.*

*Two remarkable Symptoms.*



and those wherewith I had been formerly treated ; so easie and pleasant was the Operation, and withal so efficacious.

Should I pretend to give what the Doctors call the *Rationale*, how this *Specifick* Remedy effected my Cure by such an easy and uncommon Evacuation, it would be of little Moment, tho' done with the utmost *Art* and Accuracy: all who are the least acquainted with the History of Physick know, that nothing is more common among its Professors, than to form *Hypotheses*, which in a little time become exploded as ridiculous. Dr. *Willis*, in his time, took upon him *Systematically* to account for the secret and hidden Operation of Medicines on human Bodies ; but Dr. *Mead*, in his Treatise *de imperio Solis & Luna, &c.* saith, that Dr. *Willis* hath given us an *Idea* of *Soporiferous Distempers*, which shews the Author more abounded in Words than in Principles of Physick. And though Dr. *Mead* should be mistaken in his Censure, yet he, nor Dr. *Willis*, nor any other Author, give us any light how such an Operation, as my *Specifick* produceth, can be accounted for according to their imaginary Explications of Causes and Effects ; For how Nature disposeth Remedies to effect particular Cures, must be no easie Matter to determine, until we are able to penetrate more nicely into Things so remote from our Senses: And therefore till I am able to talk otherwise than in the vulgar Cant of *Thinning, Rarifying, Absorbing, and Attenuating* those *stagnated, coagulated Juices*, I will be silent of those Matters ; and shall only observe, that this Disease may be led, but not driven ; and that the gentlest Methods will be always likely to prove the most successful. Men may Purge and Salivate as long as they please, without any other Effect, than that the Morbifick Matter, which uses to be thrown out by Ulcers, &c. shall, by the Debility and Weakness of the Patient, occasioned by such rough Usages, be turned upon some of the

more



more noble Parts, and thereby bring Death much sooner, than if Nature had been suffered quietly (as long as she was able) to disburden herself through those extraordinary Canals, by her formed to evacuate what is hurtful; and yet there may be some Simples and Methods which will safely and effectually cure this Distemper, with infinite less Trouble than what People undergo in such Cases by the common Applications, which debilitate Patients to such a degree as to make them utterly incurable, who might have easily been reliev'd if those common rough Courses of Physick had been forborn. I can truly say, from my own Experience, that the greater Violence I was treated with, when afflicted with that Distemper, by so much the worse it fared with me; the same I very well remember was the usual Complaint of all my Fellow-sufferers, whereof I had a large Acquaintance, who are long since expired, much the sooner I fear by those Things which were prescribed as Remedies, than if the Disease had been left to it self.

When a human Body is so far depraved, as that this, or any other Distemper happens, and if Methods are used, which instead of healing that Decay of Nature, do further weaken the whole Body, and instead of being a Friend prove an Enemy: Can any Man think but such additional Attacks tend to destroy where it pretended to give Assistance, and this is the true Reason why I meet with so much more difficulty in the Cure of those People who have pass'd thro' the ordinary and stated Methods of Physick and Surgery, than of others (who though they have the Distemper more violently) have never been tamper'd with; tho' even some of these, I can truly affirm, with God's wonderful Blessing on my Endeavours, have been healed by me, though pronounced incurable by some called the *Æsculapii* of this Age, who had used their utmost Efforts to no other Purpose, but of leaving their Patients much worse than they found them.



The usual Practice in curing the *King's Evil*, I have observ'd to run (in a manner) chiefly upon Evacuation, with the Use of the Decoction of the Woods, and some other *Simples*; which Methods are so generally known and fix'd, that if five hundred People were afflicted with this Distemper, and as many Physicians consulted, a Man might not only pretty nearly guess, what each of them would prescribe; but also, what Effects each Person might expect from their Prescriptions. But now, as this my *Specifick* Remedy is new and uncommon, so likewise are its Operations different from any Medicines I ever yet knew or heard of. For, no sooner is this Remedy incorporated with the Blood, but the scrofulous Ulcers open like so many Flood-Gates, pouring out the Humour with a mighty Current, which to every Bodies thinking, should rather waste and consume the Body, than encrease its Strength and Vigour. But it proves quite otherwise, for by how much the more plentifully the Humour spends it self this way, by so much the more hearty and strong do People grow: And this one thing I look upon as a very reasonable Indication of a succeeding Cure; because this viscous and stubborn Humour, which will not yield to other Evacuations, tho' never so strong, is here by thrown out, the Way which Nature indicates to disburden her self.

This pass'd for a Maxim with *Hippocrates*; *Aphor. 21.*

*Those things (saith he) which are to be carried off, are to be drawn whither they most incline, through such Ways and Places as are fittest for Conveyance and Expulsion.* Of the same Mind was the great Dr. Sydenham, a Man famous in his Time; *Where Nature, saith he, hath appointed some certain way of Evacuation, whatever Method assists her in her own way, necessarily conduceth to Healing of the Disease.* And, saith the late Dr. Paxton, *Herein consists one great Secret of Physick, in rightly judging when it's necessary and safe to evacuate, and in distinguishing by what Ways*



and Methods it ought to be done ; if we mistake in either, instead of preserving the Sick, we may destroy him. And methinks, it should easily be allow'd, that to promote a regular *Secretion* of the Morbifick Matter in those Places where Nature hath determin'd to empty herself, is the most rational and safe Method for eradicating this Disease. Sometimes this *Specifick* Remedy will precipitate this Humour, and bring it away by *Urine* also : Which, as the Divine *Hippocrates* hath elsewhere observed, is a good Sign of an ensuing Cure.

After a few Days takings of this *Specifick* Remedy, either in *Specie*, or dissolved in any proper *Vehicle*, I have, therewith, brought several of these knotty and hard Swellings to speedy Suppuration, which before would not yield to the strongest Cataplasms, Poultices, or the other greasie Emollients. And, moreover, where the foulness of the Bones have not been suspected, they have, by taking this Remedy, perforated the Skin, and scaled without Pain and Trouble. The Glands are thought to be the Seats of the *King's Evil*, swelled and enflamed with a viscous and ropy Matter. If so, may it not be allowed, that a Medicine, whose immediate Operations are upon these *secretory Vessels*, must needs be of prime Use and Advantage in this Case, since it affects none but the distempered Parts, nor disturbs any other Humour but the Scrofulous ; the like effect, I fancy, can't be found from the Use of any other Medicine, Simple or Compound. For an unquestionable Proof of this Matter, I dare appeal to those who have taken this *Specifick* Remedy, if they have not found an immediate Sense of its Operation in the Parts affected, after having drank but one or two Glasses thereof.

That *Specifick* Remedies were always held in great Esteem by Physicians, Surgeons, and Naturalists, their own Writings do abundantly testify. *Hippocrates*, though not the earliest Author, speaks much in their Praise, affirming his own Experience of them, and those of his Predecessors, were sufficient to re-



commend their Use. Galen likewise relates several Cures done by them, tho' he could give no rational Account how they displayed their Virtues on particular Parts and Humours. Dr. Paul Barbette speaks much in favour of some internal Remedies, to have a Specific Energy for curing the *King's Evil*. Dr. Mead also, in his Mechanical Account of Poisons, declares, from his own Experience, the Fat of *Vipers* to have a Power beyond all other Medicines to expel their Poisons: And in his other Treatise, *de Imperio Solis & Lunæ*, speaking of the Falling Sickness, he saith, " If any thing can possibly cure this Distemper, and correct the Faults of the *Fluids* (though by the way, the Doctor gives us no Mathematical Demonstration how) " we may hope for it either from " true or fictitious Cinnaber, or from the Root of " wild *Valerian*: I have found (saith the Doctor) " by Experience, a good Effect from both. " The late Dr. Ratcliffe was wont to say, " Mankind had as " much reason to bless God for those Specificks, *Opium* and the *Bark*, as they had for their daily " Bread. And Dr. Tho. Fuller saith, That Specificks are found, by Experience, to have Respect to one Part more than another; that a Medicine may strike a particular Impression on one Humour, and not touch another: Whereof the Doctor gives us many Instances. And therefore (saith he in another Place) tho' the fashionable Opinion of late Years runs, that there are no such things as Electives, respecting one Humour more than another, yet irrefragable Experience proves otherwise to the very Senses. " Some People have denied the Efficacy " of Specificks operating on particular Humours, (saith Monsieur Lemery) " but by small Observation in the Practice of Physick, one may soon perceive their different Effects. And tho' the Practice of Physick did not prove it, yet the Rules of Chymistry are a Demonstration of it, For seeing the differ-

Phar. Extemp.  
p. 88.

Course of Chymistry, p. 632.



“ rent Nature of Substances upon which we make  
 “ Experiments, require different Dissolvents, we  
 “ have good reason to conclude the same of those  
 “ Humours of the Body, which are of a different  
 “ Nature. ” And, indeed, the Suffrages of all our  
 eminent Physicians and Naturalists agree, till of  
 late, that Remedies might be found to act more di-  
 rectly upon some particular Parts and Humours,

*Advancement  
 of Learning,  
 p. 196.*

than others : Which, as the Lord Bacon truly observes, is the Cause why Empiricks and old Women are more happy many times, in their Cures, than Learned Physicians ; because they are faithful and steady to those approv'd Medicines, which they have found out for particular Diseases ; And therefore, saith he, it would be Matter of good Consequence, if some Physicians of Note for Learning and Practice, would compile a Work of Probations and experimental Medicines for the Cure of particular Diseases. No doubt, saith the same Author, if Physicians, letting Generalities go for a while, and suspending their Assent thereto, would make their Approaches to Nature, they might become Masters of that Art whereof the Poet speaks,

Et quoniam variant morbi variabimus artes,  
 Mille mali Species, mille salutis erunt. *Ovid.*

I find Sir William Temple in his Essay upon Health writes thus, “ The great Defects in this Science (speaking of Physick) seems to have proceeded from  
 “ the Professors Application (especially since Galen’s time) running so much upon Method, and  
 “ so little upon Medicine, and in this to have  
 “ addicted themselves so much to Composition, and  
 “ neglected too much the Use of Simples, as well as  
 “ the Enquiries and Records of Specifick Remedies. ” But now truly, according to the present Mode of Practice, if Diseases are not curable by what the Apothecaries Shop affords, there



is a *ne plus ultra*; so that the *King's Evil*, the *Gout*, &c. become *Opprobria Medicorum*, not so much from their stubborn Natures, as by those Restrictions and Limitations Physicians have set to their Practice. Thus by fixing Boundaries to God's Works, those Remedies which by Specifick Properties would effectually cure particular Distempers, are in a manner lost; for, say they, Every Medicine operates Mechanically, according to the Laws of *Motion*, *Attraction*, *Gravitation*, *Cohæsion*, &c. which all Bodies are subject to; therefore there cannot be a peculiar Aptitude in any one Remedy, to relieve this, or any other Malady more than another. I confess these Gentlemen act with some Fineness and Subtily, because the belief of *Specificks* would invalidate their new Theories; therefore they affirm, there are no *Specifick* Remedies, and consequently lead People from valuing such things as have been always experienc'd to be beneficial in particular Distempers. I would only ask these *Anti-Specifick* Gentlemen, Why different Substances require different Resolvents, as every one acquainted with *Pharmacy* and *Chymistry* knows? Why their Officinal Medicines are distributed into distinct Classes, answering to some particular Intentions, *viz.* *Cephalicks* for Diseases of the Head, *Alexipharmicks* to expel Poisons, *Artbriticks* for Diseases of the Gout, *Diureticks* to provoke Urine, and the like? Is not this to say, in other Words, there are *Specifick* Remedies for particular Parts and Humours? Does this amount to any thing more than the Cloathing the same thing with other Words, only to amuse and deceive the Vulgar, by raising a Dust to make it more obscure and mysterious, perswading us to believe they know more than all that went before them? I shall only remark how contrary this is to that Openness and Ingenuity of Temper, which were the Ornaments of some of their Predecessors, particularly Dr. Sydenham, who says, *Though Specifick Remedies*



fall not to every Man's share, yet, no doubt, out of that abundant Plenitude with which Nature overflows, Care is taken, by the excellent Maker of all Things, for the Cure of all those Diseases afflicting Mankind, and that near at hand, in every Country. Some time or other, adds the Doctor, a Specifick Remedy will be found for the Gout, which, if ever it comes to pass, will expose the Ignorance of the Dogmatical, how much they are deceived in their Knowledge of secret Causes of Diseases, and the Remedies they apply. Of the same Mind was the late Dr. Ratcliffe, who was wont to say, Some old Women, one time or other, would find out a Remedy for the Gout. To add no more, the Honourable Mr. Boyle, that famous Restorer of Experimental Philosophy (as Dr. Friend calls him) hath written a Treatise of the Reconcilableness of Specifick Medicines to the Corpuscular Philosophy.

Pliny says, we are ignorant of what we live upon ; but in my Opinion, we are less acquainted with that which makes us sick. Daily Experience convinceth us, that our Constitutions are injur'd, yet we can't Scientifically demonstrate the Causes thereof ; for tho' we may sometimes think we know whence they come, yet very often we can't so much as guess whence or how they came to pass : And to shew the Weakness of our Wisdom, it's often found, that many Distempers are cur'd by those very Things, which, according to our Reason and way of Thinking,

Dr. Fuller's  
Med. Gym-  
nastica.

are directly opposite to the very Nature of the Disease: We see Contraries often prove Remedies to one another in the Juices, and Poisons become beneficial, when oppos'd to certain Humours ; the World has lately had full Evidence of the good Effects of an intense Cold, equally apply'd to all the Parts of the Body at once ; which Method of Curing some Years ago, was thought very extravagant, and certainly destructive.

As Diseases have infinite Ways and Means to enter upon us, so there may be as many for Health to re-



turn by, if Mens Pride and Conceit did not too often turn them out of the way leading to it. It's an easie Matter to imagine this or that Humour to be the Cause of any particular Distemper, and to form Methods of Cure upon such Conjectures, but Nature, who best knoweth her own Wants and Grievances, is not easily managed by such Devices. She will be served in her own Way, and needeth no other Assistance for her Preservation against all Assaults, but a prudent Application of those Remedies she hath every where provided, suitable to each Complaint. If Providence had not thus order'd Things, what must become of the first Inhabitants of the World, and of those People now living in many Places, who have no Physicians, *Philosophy* nor *Medicines* to heal their *Sicknesses*, but such as are vulgarly known among themselves, and approved by their own Experience and Observation? In ancient *Babylon*, great and populous as it was, no Physicians were known, nor other Methods for curing Distempers, than those gain'd by every Man's own Experience and Enquiry, *Artem experientia fecit, exemplo monstrante viam.* *Manilius.*

For my part, I think it would shew a Pride and Conceit in me, that because God, in his great Goodness, hath been pleased to discover to me the Means of curing this Distemper, by this gentle and easy Method; therefore I should take upon me to delineate, and exactly describe, either the Causes of this Evil Humour, or those several Processes whereby its Cure is effected; for I well remember, that when I applied my self to others for Cure, they, of all Men, had the worst Success in their Practice upon me, who professed to have a clear and perfect Knowledge of the Origin; their fine Reasonings, and nice Speculations, after a long Course of painful Experiments, ended only in grievous Disappointments. If the most learned Men have not explained several Phænomena in Nature,  
why



why should I pretend to solve what is as difficult to the full, and perhaps wholly inexplicable. Many Diseases are of that hidden and abstruse Nature, working out their Effects by secret Ways, and so remote from human View, that oftentimes the most learned Physicians have not been able to determine the immediate Cause with that Certainty, but that others have as strenuously opposed it: In this Disease, particularly, I believe I could cite twenty different Opinions, out of Authors, each of them peremptorily asserting the Cause and Cure from their own *Hypotheses*. And I once knew a young Gentleman with a Swelling under his right Jaw, who \* ended his Life before his Physicians could end the Dispute among themselves, whether the Tumour was Scrofulous or not.

It's somewhat strange, a Disease every where so common, should admit of any Doubt or Dispute, when the very Complexion (without any other Sign) is a clear Indication. I knew a young Lady much afflicted with Pains in her Head, attended with great dimness of Sight, which I suspected to be the *King's Evil*, but her Relations slighted my Judgment: When she was dead, her Head being open'd, it appeared that her Brain was in a manner consumed, and the inward Table of her Scull *carious*. I saw likewise a Child open'd about 12 or 13 Years of Age, whose Liver and Lungs were evidently Scrofulous, and yet when living she had no outward Signs of any such Distemper. A Gentleman sent two of his Sons out of *Ireland* to *Westminster* School, they seem'd both healthful Youths; but soon after the Elder of them grew indispos'd with a Cough, and died *tabid*; his Body being open'd, his Lungs

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\* *Neque enim si veritas esset inventu facilis tot ac tanti viri in ea querenda occupati, in tam contrarias sectas fuissent unquam dispersi.* Paracelsus.



were discover'd full of *Strumæ*. Dr. *Walter Needham*, in one of his Lectures at *Surgeons-Hall*, declares, "He had seen a strumous Swelling hanging  
" at the Cone of the Heart, the Weight of two  
" Ounces.

I know it hath been suggested, that I call all Tumours, Breakings out, and Lippitudes, the *King's Evil*, which is utterly false ; and I challenge any one to instance, where I said a Case was *Scrofulous*, and it proved otherwise. Divers Persons, I am sensible, make their Advantage of Peoples Ignorance and Aversions to this Distemper, deluding them with contrary Perswasions and Practices, till it's too late to help them by any Means : whereas it would be much Honester to tell the Truth at first, whereby greater Evils to Body and Purse might easily be prevented. Within these few Years, I cured a considerable Merchant of this City, who told me, after he had been six or seven Years in hand among the knowing Men, the Conclusion of the Story was, *Sir, Your Distemper proves to be the King's Evil, and we can do you no farther Service.*

The Beginnings of these *Scrofulous Tumours*, I have observed, are so very small, that their first Appearances are scarcely discernable, but by Degrees (some sooner, others later) they will encrease to a very large Size, and become as hard as Flints, whereof I have seen several Instances : And what is more strange, these Glandulous Swellings are nourished and supplied with *Juices* distinct from the Blood, fixed in determinate Seats, defended and wrapped up in their proper Coats and Vessels. A Process of Nature widely different from those Notions and Accounts hitherto given us of this Distemper. And whereas it's generally thought that Children have this Distemper only by Inheritance : I have known many afflicted therewith, where no *Hereditary Contagion* could reasonably be suppos'd : Neither my Father, Mother, nor any of their Relations,



nor one of my present Family, I can truly affirm, ever had the least Sign or Symptom of this Evil Humour among them. Many grown Persons become afflicted with the *King's Evil* by external Accidents, viz. *Blows, Bruises, Compressions, Wrenches of the Hip, Knee, Ankle,* and many other Joints. I have seen a Woman with two of these stumous Swellings, the Bigness of a Turkey's Egg, as hard as Pebbles, under her Jaws, who solemnly protested to me, that both those Swellings came in a Night's Time, and that when she went to Bed, she was as free of them as any Woman living. In my Observations, I have seen more People subject to this Distemper after the Small-Pox, than before; and generally speaking, the most healthful and active Children are soonest liable to the *King's Evil*. Whatever therefore some Men may boast of their extraordinary Skill in occult Causes, or as one of them saith, that, "*The first Step towards the Removal of a Disease, is to know its Origin.*" Their Imaginations hitherto prove but wild Visions, like the Philosopher's Stone, or the universal Medicine. What clearer Discoveries of this evil Humour Posterity may bring to light, must be left to time; but those Histories already given are rather *ignes fatui*, misguiding us to Rocks and Precipices, than leading to the genuine Method of Cure. "Parent Na-

Page 61.

"ture, saith Dr. Sydenham, accomplishes  
 "the Generation of all things, which at any  
 "time she brings to light from the Bosom of Causes, by most  
 "certain Rules, only known to her self, and hides their Essence,  
 "Quiddities, and constitutive Differences, in the greatest  
 "Obscurity. And therefore, saith he, "*The Cure of most*  
 "Diseases are not performed by the Knowledge of their  
 "occult Causes, but by a proper Method approved by Ex-  
 "perience." What repeated Experience recommends  
 "to us for a Truth, on that we may al-  
 "ways safely depend. Men hatch a great  
 "many Speculations in their Closets, which  
 "when



when they reduce to Practice, are found to be no better than Dreams of a deluded Imagination. *Sola Remedia sanant*, said good old *Celsus*: One good Remedy is preferable to all Hypotheses and plausible Conjectures: And therefore, what Sir *Robert Tabor* said to the *French King's* Physicians, when, in a scoffing manner, they demanded of him what was the Cause of a Fever, I think was very ingenious, and more to the Purpose than any other Answer whatsoever: *A Fever* (quoth he) *is a Disease you do not know how to cure, but I do.*

Provided we know Peoples Tempers and Constitutions, and those good and bad Symptoms peculiarly incident to each Distemper, as also which of the *Non-Naturals* do us good, and which of them do injury, and have but proper Remedies, we need not busie our selves much about *secret Causes*. However, from all my Experience I think I may affirm, that this Distemper is to be cured only by inward Applications, whether *Specificks* or otherwise; for there is no Possibility of destroying its Effects, but by removing the Cause: Neither *Topical Medicines* nor *Manual Operations* will avail to any lasting Purpose, if the Humour be not thoroughly eradicated. Whoever knoweth any thing of the ancient Practice of *Physick* and *Surgery*, cannot but be sensible, that in all such Cases their first and chiefest Applications were *Vulnerary Potions*: The ingenious *Paul Barbette* declares this Distemper only curable by Internals; and the Learned *Bartholine* (tho' a Surgeon) is of the same Mind. "*Strumæ* (saith *Cornelius Celsus*) have always given much Trouble and Vexation to Surgeons, because, after the best Care and Methods have been apply'd for their Extirpation, they are found to gain a new Birth." In my self, and divers other Persons, I have known these Tumours laid open by Incision, and the Glands quite consumed with *Escharoticks*. And yet afterwards the same Humour hath broken out afresh with greater



Violence ; which plainly sheweth, there is no conquering this Adversary without the inward Applications of some special Medicine, able to extinguish the Cause (whatever it be) throughout the whole Body. I have known some People afflicted with this Distemper, whose Plaisters would not stick, but drop off after their taking this *Specifick* Liquor and Powder for some time ; and others, where the Disease hath violently seized their Eyes, the Inflammations and Soreness decreased by inward Application only, which is a plain Confirmation of the Truth of this Maxim, common among Physicians, *Sublata causa tollitur effectus.*

After I had fully experienced the Excellency and Usefulness of this Medicine in my own Case, I thought my self obliged, in Charity, to make it publick ; that others, if they pleas'd, might reap the same Benefit by it, as, blessed be God, I had done. And, I conceive, I have some Reason to esteem my self capable of helping those who at any time shall desire my Assistance. For, besides the Knowledge (which God hath blessed me with) of this *Specifick Remedy*, I have likewise gain'd some other Skill from my past Sufferings, which I reckon may be very conducive to the Cure of this Distemper, as what Tumours are Scrofulous, and what are not. I know as well the Temper and Constitution of People afflicted with the *Evil*, as I did my own, and can easily tell when they will suffer Pain, and when not ; when their Sores will run little or much ; at what Seasons their Swellings will rise or fall ; and when they will break, and the like. Of these Things I have given a satisfactory Account, as divers People will bear me Witness.

*Montagne's Essay.* Physick (as a certain Author hath long since observed) doth always profess to have Experience for the Proof of its Operations. And it was *Plato's* Opinion, that in order to be a true Physician, a Man should first suffer

all



all those Diseases he pretended to cure, and pass thro' all those Accidents and Circumstances he was to judge of in others. This, I must confess, is a severe Position ; and if no Man were to practise but upon these Conditions, I fancy, Physick would have but few Professors ; tho' doubtless, the best Knowledge is ever gain'd by a Man's own Experience and Observation, which, as *Celsus* observes, *Is the principal Thing to inform Men in a right Method of Cure.* Aphr. 10. Sect. 9.

“ Of all Sorts of Instructions, (saith  
 “ Sir *William Temple*) the best are gain'd Misc. p. 133.  
 “ from our own Thoughts and Expe-  
 “ riences ; for tho' a Man may grow learned by other  
 “ Mens Thoughts, yet he will become wise or happy  
 “ only by his own. ” I can truly say, the first Steps  
 towards my own Recovery, were a Change of  
 Thoughts against the Stream of Vulgar Opinions.  
 Those Remarks and Observations which I made of  
 Things hurtful or beneficial to me in the Way of Li-  
 ving, afforded me much better Light toward my Cure,  
 than all the Instructions I had seen in Phy-  
 sical Authors. Several Eatables, though *The Useful-*  
 forbidden by Physicians, did me consi- *ness of Diet.*  
 derable Service ; and I have reason to  
 think there may be Specifick Diets, as Hipp. de Di-  
 well as Medicines : The ancient Phy- *æta.*  
 sicians seem to intimate as much. *It is*  
*impossible, saith Galen, that the Humours should not par-*  
*take of the Substance and Qualities which the Food had*  
*before it was eaten ; the Truth whereof we learn by*  
*every Day's Experience, from those ill Effects of an*  
*improper Diet : In some measure among the Healthy,*  
 but more especially among the Diseased, it often  
 produceth those Mischiefs in a few Hours, which  
 several Months shan't be able to retrieve ; and there-  
 fore it's a Matter of great Importance, that diseased  
 Persons be well advised in their Diet ; which some of  
 the ancient Physicians reputed the Origin of good or  
 bad



bad Temperaments. And herein I think my self not unqualified, to give those necessary Directions, which, if observed, would prove of very great Use and Service to Persons afflicted with this *Evil Humour*: Good Management, in this Respect, I find, (tho' it will not absolutely cure this Disease) is highly useful, and very efficacious, to aid, assist, and give an Energy to the Operation of proper Medicines.

Another Thing, which, by my own Experience, I found to have a commanding Power in this Distemper, in giving Pain or Ease, was the Quality or Disposition of the *Air* \*:

*And of Air.*

Wherein I was so critical in my Observations, that upon the least Turn or Change of the Weather, I knew as well what I was to expect, as if a Messenger before-hand had given me Warning. And whosoever undertakes the curing of this Disease, will find such Observations of great Use, not only to direct him in the Cure, but also to prevent Perturbations of Mind, in those who labour under this Distemper, arising from its Ebbings and Flowings, which, indeed, are very sudden and surprizing. If any one thinks these and such like Observations are Trifles, let him enjoy his Opinion: In the mean time it's my Judgment, whoever carelessly neglects these Things, will have no great Success with this Distemper. The Divine

*Hip. Aphor.*

*Sect. 3. p. 44.*

*Hippocrates* hath in several of his Aphorisms, fully shewed the Usefulness of such Observations, to direct Men in their Methods of curing Diseases. Change of Seasons are the most effectual Causes of Diseases, and so are the Alterations of Cold and Heat in those Seasons, and other

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\* The Country Air, where it can be had, is preferable to the City for Persons subject to this Disease. Enfield-Green I esteem the sweetest and most temperate so near London, having observed something peculiar in that Air more than any other, advantageous to Consumptive People.



*Things proportionable.* If distemper'd People observed these Things, they would not blame their Physicians in many things, when the Cause is purely owing to the Weather. Neither would others upon every little Indisposition, subject themselves to Physick and Phlebotomy, when a contrary Change of the Air would set them right. Dr. Wainewright, in his Book of *Non-Naturals*, hath clearly demonstrated what great Alterations are made in our Bodies, according to the various Changes of the Air; and affirms that from such Notice, better Indications may be taken both for the Prevention and Cure of most Diseases, than from any other Source whatsoever. *The Animal Oeconomy* (saith Dr. James Keil, with great Truth) is it self a considerable Part of Natural Philosophy, and our Bodies are so strongly influenced by Variety of Diets, and so many other Things without, that, indeed, the whole Study of Nature seems to be useful to him that would understand it. Herodotus, an ancient Author, tells us, that in Egypt Physicians were obliged to apply themselves to the Study and Improvement of but some one Disease. Every Physician, saith he, hath one Disease for his Province, and no more, &c. The Design whereof, doubtless, was very good, and of great Use to the Republick of Physick: Because hereby Physicians acquir'd a more certain and perfect Knowledge of the Nature and Disposition of particular Diseases, and of things hurtful and beneficial in each Distemper; and consequently, were better able to fence against all ill Accidents and Revolutions arising from the various Changes of the Weather, or improper Diets, and many evil Habits, whereunto each Disease hath a direct Tendency. " If one Physician (saith Dr. Sydenham) had treated but of one Disease, the Art of Healing had by this Time come to as great Perfection as our mortal Conditions would allow of.

Page 65.

Dr. Keil of  
*Animal Secretion.*Lib. 2. Sect.  
82.

The



The divine *Hippocrates* formed his Practice from Experience and Observation on particular Diseases. To understand the Art of Physick, is to know thoroughly the peculiar Constitution of every Season, what there is generally good and bad in each Man's Distemper, the State and Crisis of every Disease, to whom, when and how, *Victuals* must be given. He that knows and makes a right Use

3 Epid. 3.  
p. 156.

of these things, cannot be mistaken in the Art of Healing. To the same Purpose speaketh *Cornelius Celsus*; Neither ought the Physician to be ignorant of the Nature and Constitution of the Patient, whether his Body be moist or dry, whether strong or infirm, whether seldom or often Sick, &c.

Aphor. 13.  
p. 236.

Of these Particulars, I take all possible Care to inform my self, from every Person with whom I am concern'd, and should be glad, if Persons labouring under this Distemper, living in remote Parts, when they write to me, would send an exact Account of their peculiar Habits of Body, in what Parts they are afflicted, and how long.

As I judged these no improper Qualifications for one who undertook to help others, so, blessed be God, I have met with an answerable Success. As I

The same Effects generally common to all other People.

treat others, as I did my self, so I find the very same common Effects. Their Sores run with the same Flux of Matter upon taking this *Specifick Remedy* as mine did. Those painful Operations of Cutting, Cauterizing, and the like, (which one of the greatest Surgeons we have had, long since declar'd, were more fatal and dangerous than the Disease it self) are by the inward Application of this *Specifick Remedy* rendred useless and unnecessary. The common Rules and Directions prescribed in this Case, are as useless to me as Crutches to a sound Man: My Materials are not collected from *Pharmacies* (more diseased than our Bodies). I am able, with God's Blessing, to do the Business, without inflicting



flitting those Torments attending *manual Operations*. I have a Box of Scales and foul Bones, the largest that ever was seen, driven out by this Anti-Strumattick Liquor. Their *Urine* likewise I have frequently observed as thick and ropy as my own used to be; and tho' they are never so Weak and Lame, yet I always find their Strength daily increasing, as mine did. It's a common Complaint among those who have taken Diet-drinks, made of *Guaiacum*, *Sarsaparilla*, *Mizerion*, and the like, for any Time; that these Remedies spoil their Stomachs, and burn them up with Feverish Heats: But this *Specifick* hath quite contrary Effects, wonderfully invigorating the *Spirits*, preserving the Appetite, and restoring it when lost; and is of that *mundifying, healing, drying Quality*, that some inveterate Ulcers have been cured therewith by an outward Application only. For sore, weak, and enflamed Eyes, or where the Sight is obstructed with *Mists, Clouds, Films, and Pearls*, there is no better Ophthalmick in the World. Neither did I ever know this Humour break out afresh upon any Person cur'd by this Method, no more than it hath done on me above these twenty Years past; the Truth whereof I can make appear by a Cloud of Witnesses, from their own Experience. Neither do I encourage People to enter upon this Method of Cure, if I have not some Hopes and Prospect of Success.

It's hard to say positively, who are curable, and who not; This last Year I cured a Man and six of his Children, before I was able to effect any good on a young Woman (in appearance not near so bad) in the same Neighbourhood. Perfect and absolute Cures in all Cases cannot be expected, because, as *Celsus* observes, *Causes and Constitutions are so various, that we lose our selves sometimes in those very Accidents whereof we seem to have the greatest Certainty and Experience*. And therefore, saith he, "Confidence and Presumption in the Art of Physick, are the true Characteristics of Quacks and Medical Impostors."



So far as I am able to judge from the large Experience I have had, first on my self, and now upon others, one of the greatest Difficulties in making a compleat Cure of this Distemper in most People, with this Method, is Length of Time, which many have not Patience to submit to, nor considering the Stubbornness of this Disease, above all others ; that Nature being brought very low, and worn out, in a manner, with a long Duration of the Illness, together with the emaciating Methods in common Use, cannot so soon accomplish the Concoction and Depumation of the Morbifick Matter, as they could wish : It is in this Disease, as in all other Chronical Distempers, the Cause is passed into a Habit, and is become, as it were, a second Nature. And therefore it is not to be expected, that some small and short Alteration super-induced upon the Blood and Humours by any sort of Remedy or Diet, can perfect a Cure : Since the whole Habit of Body must be changed, and the whole Man (if I may so express it) must be as it were new created. For want of considering these things, People are easily seduced to try variety of Medicines, but with so little Advantage, that they oftentimes run themselves into greater Evils ; according to that Observation, long since deliver'd

*Natural Hist.  
of Life and  
Death.*

by the Lord Bacon, *That as Variety of Medicines is the Off-spring of Ignorance, so many Medicines have caused few Cures.*

Whoever knows any thing of the late Dr. Ratcliffe's Practice, must allow he gave the least Medicines, and the fewest Compositions of any Physician : The uniting Forces (as one ignorantly talks) to scour every *Gland Vessel* and *Cell* of the whole Body, may delude those who know no better ; but Men of Probity, Learning and Experience, are sensible that Medicine is always most effectual in its Native Dress, seldom better'd but often spoiled in its Virtues, with additional Mixtures to quicken its Energy, *Credo simplicia in sua simplicitate*, saith their  
great



great Master Galen, *esse sufficientia pro sanatione omnium Morborum.*

When Men talk of variety of Medicines and Methods of Cure ; “ As necessary to answer all those  
 “ several Symptoms and Indications, which this or  
 “ any other Distemper may require, tho’ their Arguments be plausible, and perhaps sometimes true, ”  
*viz.* Yet, as it often cometh to pass, that different Symptoms proceed from one and the same Cause, so whatever single Remedy will effectually remove that Cause, will as certainly remove the several Symptoms or Effects thereof. Few Diseases for Instance shew themselves in a greater variety of Forms, or are attended with more various Symptoms than *Fevers* and *Agues* ; and yet the *Cortex* prudently exhibited, will take off all those different Symptoms without the Assistance of any other Applications. So also in Venereal Cases, Patients have many different Complaints, which seem to require different Applications ; but yet it’s evident in Fact, that upon the sole use of *Mercurials* skilfully administered, all those numerous Grievances come to an end. By Parity of Reason therefore, altho’ nothing more common than *Fevers*, *Consumptions*, *violent Pains*, &c. among Persons afflicted with the *King’s Evil* ; yet as these are not Distempers arising from different Causes, but the real Effects of one and the same, what need is there of multiplying Remedies for the Removal thereof ? I have seen Multitudes of People (young and old) afflicted with this Distemper, but could never observe any remarkable difference of Temper or Constitution, or any considerable Variation of Symptoms among them, otherwise than what the Disease naturally produceth in common. When the Course of these Humours are controuled otherwise than Nature designed ; when that peccant Matter is recalled back into the Blood which Nature had thrown off to the Extremities of the Body, no wonder if such poor Wretches are almost destroyed with



Stomach Sicknesſes, Gripes, Faintings, and a large Troop of other irregular Symptoms, more grievous than the Evils intended to be removed: In ſuch Caſes (which are but too common) the Life of the Patient may be in hazard; which before was in no danger, ſince that Art which ſhould follow the Directions of Nature, is otherwiſe employed to thwart her Endeavours, by a raſh Application of Medicines. To theſe Obſervations I may add another of equal Truth, that the moſt authentick Evidences of a Man's curing this or any other Diſeaſe, are not ſufficient to ſatisfie ſome People prepoſſeſſ'd with Prejudices; ſo that if a Man were morally certain of curing any one Diſtemper, yet he would find it a difficult Point to convince ſome, tho' he produc'd an hundred Inſtances of his Succeſs. And the Reaſon may be this, becauſe Phyſicians, and thoſe depending on them, have in all Places ſo much decry'd all Perſons and Things, excluſive of their own Knowledge and Practice, that *Hiſt. of Phyſ.* People think there's no Balm in Gilead *pag. 4.* but what's in their Hands. And yet *ibid.* Phyſicians have acknowledg'd that the Tentamina, or Art of Healing was originally derived *Æt. Jac. Keil,* from the ignorant and unlearned \*. *M. D. p. 11.* Nay, ſometimes (ſay they) the Fowls of the Air, and the Beaſts of the Field, have, by the Exerciſe of their natural Inſtincts, directed conſidering Men to ſuch Medicines, as with-

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\* If any Credit may be given to Pliny, we ſhall have no reaſon to boaſt of the Invention of Phyſick, two great Operations in that Art having been owing to two inconfiderable Creatures, viz. Bleeding and Purgings; the firſt to Hippopotamas, a River-Horſe; the latter to Ibis, a ſmall Bird in Egypt.

The Native (ſaith Monſieur Pomet) found out the Virtue of the Balaſam Capiyi, by means of certain Hogs in theſe Parts, who preſently when they were wounded, would ſtrike their Teeth againſt the Trunks of theſe Trees, from whence the Balaſam would flow out into their Wounds; and this they would continue till they were perfectly well. *Hiſtory of Drugs, p. 208.*



out such Indications, perhaps their Reason and Skill would never have brought to light.

*Dictamnium genitrix cretæa carpit ab Ida  
 Puberibus caulem foliis & flore comantem  
 Purpureo, non illa feris incognita capris  
 Gramina cum tergo volucres hædere sagittæ.*

Virg. Æn. 12.

And for as much as it hath pleased God that I should be perfectly cured by this *Specifick* Remedy, after I had, in vain, tried all other Methods, and since I have by it cured so many others (of which I am at all times ready to make undoubted Proof) and daily find it so effectual, that I despair of none, provided they will be governed, and are not quite exhausted before they come under my Hands: therefore I cannot but appeal to all unprejudiced and disinterested Persons, whether I ought not to make use of the Gift God hath imparted to me, and do what lies in my Power to help my Fellow-Creatures; although I do not set out with the Name of a Doctor in form, or pretend to have found out new Systems in Physick; for (as Dr.

James Keil says in his Preface to the Account of Animal Secretion) “ Most Pag. 20.

“ Theories of Diseases are built upon Principles of  
 “ natural Philosophy; and therefore we can never  
 “ have any Certainty, or indeed so much as a De-  
 “ gree of Probability, that the Indications drawn  
 “ from them are right, or such, as if answered, would  
 “ cure the Disease. ” And, indeed, most of our  
 Physicians Writings are full of Invectives against the  
 Opinions of their Predecessors, and of Endeavours  
 to establish some darling *Hypotheses* of their own  
 Coining: And therefore one might wonder, why  
 a Doctor, who from his Books has his Head fill'd  
 with Notions and Opinions, so inconsistent with,  
 and disagreeable to each other, should, *ipso facto*, be-  
 come



come sitting to be trusted with Peoples Lives, tho' that fitness consists chiefly in being acquainted with what Authors, so disagreeing among themselves, have written on that Subject, but without his having Experimentally known the Truth or Falshood of what his Authors assert; for his Prescriptions being made *secundum Artem*, or in other Words, according to the Mode then in Vogue, are, as to him, only Traditions from others; so that whether this does indeed and in truth, qualifie and enable a Man to cure Diseases, tho' it may have the Sanction of the Law to authorize his Practice, let any capable Person determine.

I am not insensible, that some of our Modern Doctors, *viz.* Mead, Friend, Keil, Pitcairne, &c. deny, as much as possible, the Theories, Systems, and Hypotheses, which have been esteemed by many Physicians of great Name, not only branding them as false, but accusing them as hurtful: And now they have started the Notion of introducing the Mathematical and Mechanical Sciences into Medicine, and that they have attain'd Demonstration and Certainty for their Foundations, and in consequence thereof, Health and assured Benefit to their Patients for the Superstructure. I must confess nothing could be invented in this *Mathematical Age*, to make People think better of these Gentlemen, and their Profession; for if a Doctor is able to prove that what he prescribes shall as infallibly cure a Distemper, as 'tis proved that the three Angles of a Triangle are equal to two right Angles, then surely those that are blessed with this Science of Healing, cannot be enough honour'd.

Now in order somewhat to examine into this, which may amuse even Men of Learning, unless they enquire into it, much more the illiterate, I desire to premise, that I should think it unpardonable to offer any thing which might look like depreciating the Mathematicks in any degree, it being indisputable,

that



that they have an intrinsic Worth in themselves, and tend to habituate the Mind to a close nervous Way of thinking on other Subjects ; and therefore I would be understood, that my Aim is only to enquire, Whether the Mathematick and Mechanick Sciences are really applicable in the Medicinal *Art*.

'Tis almost needless to mention that which every one who is in the least conversant in the Mathematicks will readily agree to, *viz.* that without sufficient *Data* or Premisses laid down, no Argumentations can be begun, no Deductions or Inferences can be made, and much less any Conclusions formed : As for instance, in plain *Geometry*, if the Length and Breadth of a Figure are known, then the Area or Superficies is easily discover'd ; but if I know the Length and not the Breadth, or *è contra*, then the amount of the Superficies is not to be found ; but if there be not *Data* enough, all my Enquiries are fruitless ; and if, notwithstanding such defects of Premisses, I will form Conclusions, I only shew my Ignorance and Conceit, tho' cover'd over and enveloped with Expressions used by Mathematicians. And in like manner, if in the *Science* of Medicine there be not sufficient *Data*, that is, if there is not an infallible, clear, distinct, and adequate Knowledge of the Disease, and of the Virtue and Efficacy of the Medicine to be prescribed, and if this Knowledge be not to all Intents and Purposes, as really and truly comprehended by the Physician, as the *Data* in a Mathematical Proposition, are by him that would form any Deductions from the same, then 'tis undeniable, that the infallible Effects of this Medicine cannot be demonstrated with Mathematical Certainty, and the very pretending thereto looks like an Artifice to perswade and amuse the World, that the Professors of Medicine have as much Proof of the real Benefit and Operation of their Prescriptions, as the Mathematicians have of the Truth of their Propositions, and seems to be an endeavouring to have



it thought, that these two Sciences agree in Certainty. And accordingly Dr. James Keil, in his Preface to his Book of *Animal Secretion*, says, Pag. 6.

“ Since the Animal Body is a pure Machine, and all its Actions from which Life and Health do flow, are the necessary Consequences of its Oeconomy, must not all the Symptoms of Diseases be likewise the necessary Consequences of the Alteration of this Oeconomy? and do they not as necessarily flow from this Change, as the Actions by which Life and Health are continued, did flow from the Oeconomy before this Change? If, (says he) the Pendulum of such a Length makes a Clock to go exactly true, does not the Alteration of the Pendulum as necessarily cause it to go too fast or too slow; and when all the rest of the Movement is known to be in good Order, does not the quick or slow Motion of the Clock as necessarily shew the Fault of the Pendulum. ” *It's the same thing as (he affirms) in the Animal Body, for the same Reasoning holds good in all sorts of Machines, whose Motions are the necessary Consequences of their Structures. In like manner Dr. Mead in the Preface to his Book de Imperio Solis & Luna, &c. declares, That Mechanical Theory consists of Demonstration, which by his Skill in Geometry, he (viz. the Physician) either draws from the Figure of the Bodies, or by necessary Induction from the known and manifest Laws of Motion. And thus the same Author in his Mechanical Account of Poisons, asserts, That if so abstruse Phenomena as these (viz. of Poisons) come under the known Laws of Motion, it might very well be taken for granted, that the more obvious Appearances in the same Fabrick (i. e. an Animal) are owing to such Causes as are in the reach of Geometrical Reasoning. So in like manner Dr. Friend, in his Praelectiones Chymicae, argues, That there being an attractive or gravitating Force in all Bodies, in proportion, to the quantity of Matter contain'd in them, therefore the whole*



*whole Business of Pharmacy may be reduced to Reason and Certainty.* This, and a great deal more to the same Purpose, these Gentlemen are pleas'd to publish, of the Certainty attained in the Science they profess. I wish, with all my Soul, that these Pretensions were well founded, and that Mankind might know where to have certain Help for the many Maladies to which they are incident; But by way of Anticipation, I must observe, that if (as they affirm) all other Hypotheses, Systems, and Theories are false and of no worth, then consequently all Prescriptions founded on those Mistakes, should be laid aside and quite disregarded, and new Medicines, Recipes, and Remedies, suitable to these modern Discoveries, ought to be introduced for the Cure of Diseases; and yet instead of what one might so justly expect in this Case, it's notorious and beyond Contradiction, that no new Dispensatory is formed, the Business of Medicine in general is administered in the same manner now, as when those *Hypotheses* were predominant which are now so much condemned; the *Materia Medica* is the same, except the *Barb* and a few other Drugs, brought to light by the ignorant *Indians* (those illiterate Mortals, who value things from the repeated Experiences of their Efficacy, without pretending Scientifically to demonstrate how they operate) and all the Alteration is, that as the Effects of Medicine were formerly endeavour'd to be accounted for, according to the *Theories* then received: So now every Operation in Medicine is pretended to be solved by *Geometry*, or according to the Laws of *Attraction*, &c. they have, indeed, invented another manner of Talking on this Subjects, but the matter of their Prescriptions is substantially and really the same as before; so that the Change by them made, consists of Words and not of Things; and tho' this Device may captivate the unwary, and for some time even puzzle the Wise, yet the diseased part of Mankind receive no real Benefit thereby, as is evi-



dent in those Treatises where these new Notions are broach'd; for Dr. *Mead* in his Book of Poisons, or in that *de Imperio Solis & Lunæ, &c.* Dr. *Friend* in his *Prælectiones Chymicæ*, Dr. *Cheyne* in his new Theory of Fevers, Dr. *Keil*, in his Book of *Animal Secretion*, Dr. *Pitcairne*, nor any other of the Modern *Virtuosi*, have discover'd any new Remedies for the curing the Maladies whereof they treat; but only endeavour in a new Manner, to account for the Operation of those Medicines which were commonly used long before they were born: And whether all this is of much real value, let any unprejudiced capable Person determine.

But having thus a little digress'd, I should have attempted directly to investigate, how far these Gentlemen have indeed introduced Mathematical and Mechanical Sciences into Medicine, had they not, in some Places of their Works, express themselves so as to make one think, they rather wish'd for than pretended to have attain'd the Certainty they speak of, and that the Treatises before-mention'd, were intended for Essays how far they could succeed in that Matter, and not for Proofs that they had; particularly Dr. *Mead*, in his Book of *Poisons*, has these very Words, viz. for indeed, "the *Data* from which we argue in these Matters are by many too few"; and Dr. *James Keil*, in his before-mention'd Book of *Animal Secretion*, says, That natural Philosophy, and the Histories of Diseases must go hand in hand in the improving the Art of Curing. It is not possible (says he) to make use of the last, without the Knowledge of the first. In the same Book the Author asserts, That most of the late Histories of Diseases, are only Philosophical Romances, and contain nothing of that diligent Observation of Nature, which gained Hippocrates immortal Honour, and without which (he affirms) it is impossible, that even the Art of Physick should be improved. And the last named in his late Book called, *Tentamina Medico-Physica*, in the Preface speaks thus, I don't pretend that  
the



*the Explications of the Animal Oeconomy are to be esteemed as certain and perspicuous as the Propositions of Geometry, I wish they were, &c.* And he there further tells us, *That the Science of Healing is not straight to be rejected, because it contains a great many things that are false, many that are only probable, and but very few that are evidently true; nothing is invented and perfected at once.*

I confess I cannot account for it, that after such Acknowledgments and Concessions of the Defect and Insufficiency of the *Data* or Premisses from whence Deductions are to be made, and Conclusions drawn, according to the celebrated Method of Mathematicians: yet that these Medicinal Gentlemen should talk of such a Certainty in their Science, as may be compared with the Perspicuity and Verity which is inseparable from Mathematicks, and indeed such Pretensions are utterly inconsistent with the before-mention'd Acknowledgments, for (as before has been hinted) every *Tiro* in Mathematicks, knows, that in those Sciences, (*viz.* Arithmetick and Geometry, for mixt Mathematicks, as they are called, are rather Applications than Branches of what is truly Mathematical) nothing is admitted but of such a Nature as must constrain the Assent of every one as soon as he understands the Proposition, and its Demonstration; the Definitions are clear and distinct; the *Postulata* such as none of common Sense can refuse to grant; the Axioms are self-evident; the Deductions irrefragable, or where they fail of being so, are exploded as of no worth; and in fine, whatever is truly Mathematical cannot be contradicted when 'tis understood; and therefore, (upon Supposition of the Defects before confessed) 'tis impossible there should be as much evidence attainable in Medicine as in Geometry, and that Inferences made from Premisses declared to be imperfect, should equalize, in Truth, those that can't be contradicted by the most rigorous Opponent. 'Tis not to be denied, that if a Distemper, and the Medicines to



be apply'd, were of such a Nature as to be as fully comprehended as Geometrical Propositions, then the Consequences would be unquestionable ; but seeing 'tis not so in Fact, and themselves have acknowledged it not to be so, then what becomes of the pretended Mathematical Certainty in Physick ; for either these Modern *Literati* are in the right when they talk of the Defect of those Fundamentals or *Data* before-mention'd, and then the whole Scheme is like a Castle in the Air, without sufficient Support, and tumbles of it self, or by the least puff of Wind : Or they are greatly overseen, in thus branding the Cause they seem to have espoused ; I say seem to have espoused, for I cannot but think them Men of greater Penetration, than that they should be guilty of such an Inconsistency, as to affirm that to be Mathematically certain, which they know and confess is not so. But, perhaps, these Gentlemen having observed the advantageous Use that has been made of Mathematicks in natural Philosophy by one of the Glories of our Nation, and a very *Columbus* in the intellectual World, I mean Sir *Isaac Newton*, were thence tempted to try how far Mathematicks might be made serviceable in Medicine ; and tho' their Endeavours may have been very laborious, and their Speculations extremely subtil, yet till some Point of Stability is found whereon to fix, there can be no practical Use of Mathematicks in the Medicinal Science, and the Supposition of such a Discovery, when 'tis not so in reality, resembles the many late Attempts for finding the Longitude, which when the Projectors modestly offer to the Publick, for exciting others to try how far the proposed Schemes may be perfected and made useful ; then such Proposals, tho' very defective, cannot be unacceptable to Men of Candour and Bignity ; but if any of the Longitudinarians, with assurance give out their Inventions as perfect and practicable, and when by Men of cooler Heads they



they are found to be otherwise, 'tis not very strange, if instead of Applause they meet with some thing of a contrary Nature : The Application of this Comparison is obvious, and how unwarrantable 'tis to pretend that the Elements of Diseases and Medicines are discoverable, with an Evidence and Certainty comparable to what the Mathematicians have attained.

Nor can it be more easily admitted, that because an Artificer can regulate or adjust the Motions belonging to a Machine (suppose a Watch) of which, as to its Mechanism, he may be said, in some Sense, to have been the Creator, and of whose Essence or Constitution he has a perfect *Idea*, that in like manner, a Doctor shall have as compleat and adequate Knowledge of the Productions of the great Creator, who is as incomprehensible in his Essence as in his Works : The pretending to this would verify the saying of *Job*, *But vain Man will be wise, tho' he be born like the wild Asses Colt.* And I believe *Job* ii. v. 12. it's undeniable, that how much soever any Men have advanced in real Science, so much the more have they experimentally known their Inability fully to understand the Works of God ; and of this we have a living Instance in the never enough to be admired *Sir Isaac Newton*, who modestly acknowledgeth, “ That the very Substances themselves, even of “ Bodies, we cannot come at the Knowledge of, “ either by any of our Senses, or by any reflex “ Act of the Mind : And this illustrious Author, speaking of the *Attraction* or *Gravitation* of Bodies, concludes thus, “ But the Cause of these Properties “ of Gravity, I have not yet found deducible from “ *Phænomena*.

But that I may not needlessly enlarge, I would suppose, that a Doctor should indeed pretend to the practical Use of *Mathematicks* in Medicine, and is to prescribe to one who has a Chronick or Habitual Disease. [For as to acute Distempers, such as violent Fevers, Pleurisies, and the like, there the Disease soon con-



quers the Patient, or the Patient the Distemper ; if the latter happens, then the Victory made by Nature affords Laurels to the Physician, and it would look like an envious Detraction from the Doctor's Skill, to attribute the Recovery to the Strength of the Patient's Constitution, or some Crisis of Sweating, &c. which might have ensued, tho' the Physician had been unconsulted.] Now admitting that this Doctor knows that a *Drug* operates or gravitates after such a manner, in a Fluid composed of such Ingredients as he has mixed together, can he therefore infallibly ascertain and determine how this same Drug shall operate on the Fluids of a Human Body, unless he clearly and distinctly knew the Ingredients of one Composition as well as of the other, and unless he knows, and perfectly comprehends, how much the Fluids are alter'd from their original Rectitude, and what Resistances they meet with in passing through Organs that are vitiated, and which particularly are depraved, and which remain perfect, and how far the Organs and Fluids of the Animal will be affected by the intended Medicine ; and, in short, unless he distinctly and clearly understands every thing of the Animal and its Fluids, and the Meanders through which these pass in a State of Health, and in what manner, and how much, exactly, all those things are now altered by Sickness ; and unless he is sure, that the sick Man's Mind shall not, by any Passion of Joy or Grief, accelerate or retard the Motions of the Humours ; and without he fully knows the particular Idiosyncrasy or Peculiarities of his Patient's Constitution ; if any of these Pre-requisites are wanting, is it not evident, that the Effect of whatever is prescribed is altogether incapable of Mathematical Demonstration, and at most can be only guessed at, and not known *à Priori*, that is, it cannot be infallibly determin'd, in what manner, and to what degree the Patient will be affected by the Prescription intended.

Having



Having thus endeavoured to shew, that the Pretence of bringing Mathematicks into Medicine, is hitherto without any solid Foundation, so I find, that some of the Professors of Physick are so far from espousing such Notions, that they, with some keenness, animadvert on this new Sect of Mathematical Doctors, particularly Dr. Blackerby Fairfax, at the Botanick Meeting at Hampstead this present Year: I know not, says he, how sufficiently to admire, that natural History and comparative Anatomy, which have been so commendably cultivated among us by our Physicians for many Years past, should of late be laid aside for the Study of the Mathematicks, as if the Eternal Idea, built by Mechanick Powers and Human Modules were to be compared with Divine. The Earth is to be measured; Sound is to be set to Tune; and even the immense Space of the Heavens is reduceable to Mensuration: But who shall reduce to Measure that which our Sight can't attain to, our Ear be affected with, or our Fingers handle; that there are in an animate Body, Pullies, Rests, Leavers, &c. any Anatomist may, with Plausibility enough, make appear, but who shall measure: Shall I say or define those Animal Spirits, which are the Spring of all Animal Action, that the Blood-Vessels are proportioned to their proper Offices, who doubts; but who shall confine to measure that Lord of the Blood's Circulation, the impulsive Force of the Heart. From Inoculation it is manifest, that the Diversity of contain'd Fluids, depends upon the divers Structures of the discerning Channels; but who shall undertake the Mensuration of the Diameters of those Tubules, which the nicest Glasses can never give us sight of? Are these Foundations proper for Algebraical Equations to be built upon? Is this the genuine Use of that great Art Mathematicks? And after all, what so great Matters toward improving the Therapeutick Art have these Mathematical Physicians brought us? One of them, at great Expence of Algebra, proves, that the Motes, which in Scotomias, we seem to have in our Eyes, are not real Bodies



dies fluctuating in them. Another demonstrates, that the Power Poisons have to quench Life, proceeds from accumulated Particles they are composed of. Great Discoveries indeed, and worthy of so much clutter. Thus do some vainly admire the false Powers of Human Understanding, while they neglect the true ones; they are for contriving new Laws of Nature, while they pass by known ones of greater Value.

I think it would be needless to enlarge further in this Matter; for tho' what has been said may tend to undeceive those who open their Eyes, yet who can make him see who wilfully keeps them shut: I shall therefore conclude with saying, that as for my Pretensions, they are only thus, that whereas I had this Distemper in a very high Degree, and have, with God's Blessing, been my self cured by this Remedy, and many others have received undeniable Benefit thereby; I shall honestly apply the same Means to any Person that desires it, leaving the Success to Almighty God; with this further Declaration, for all Peoples Satisfaction, that if this *Specifick Remedy* should not Cure them, it will certainly do them no Hurt. Not one of those many Hundreds that used it, having ever complain'd of the least Injury thereby. And yet, if any should be so insatuated as to despise my good Intentions, because of the Meanness of the Person, I cannot but in Pity wish them a better State of Mind, and think I have done my Duty in thus proffering my Assistance, which if they refuse, 'tis none of my Fault.

I am, SIR,

Yours, &c.





A

Faithful Relation

Of some Extraordinary

C U R E S,

O N

Men, Women, and Children,

Afflicted with the

King's Evil, &amp;c.

*The C A S E of Charles Welsh.*

**I**T pleased God in the Island of *Fersey*, after the *Small-pox* there, to afflict me in a grievous Manner with several deep and large Ulcers in my Breast, then with two others on my right Arm; after these followed five more on my left Shoulder; and



and lastly, five others on my left Arm; whereby I was depriv'd of the Use of both Arms and Hands, being also so extream weak and lame, that I could neither go nor help my self. I had all the Advice and Medicines that were possible, particularly was under a Course of Salivation seven Weeks. But those things having no Effect upon me, I was remov'd from thence to *St. Thomas's Hospital*; but meeting with no Advantage, and being discharged *Incurable*, I was, by my Friends, then brought to *Mr. Vickers*, a Clergyman, in *Sherbourn-lane, Lombard-street*, *November 29, 1706.* who, beyond his own, and all other People's Expectations, (God be praised) wrought a perfect and complete Cure on me, being now as sound and healthy as any other Person whatsoever. I lodge at a Shoe-maker's (*Mr. William Brooks*) next Door to the *Cross-keys Inn* in *Grace-Church-Street*; where may be seen much more of this Cure than is here related by me,

*Charles Welch.*

*N. B. The Parents of Charles Welch are since removed to Mrs. Hunington's a Stuff-shop, the Sign of the Feathers, against the Cross-keys Inn, Grace-Church-Street.*

**I** *Joseph Piercy*, next Door to the *Golden Lion* in *Chiswell-Street*, having a Child extreamly afflicted with a white Swelling in one of her Knees, which had so disabled her, that she could neither stand nor go; but by God's Blessing, and those Means *Mr. Vickers* applied, she was, in the Year 1713, perfectly Cured, and also restored to the Use of her Limbs, since which Time, no Sign of Relapse, or Appearance of the Humour, hath been seen about her. Witness my Hand,

*Joseph Peircy.*



**A** Young Man having many hard Swellings, with some Ulcers under each Jaw, was likewise Cured. The Truth whereof may be known at Mr. Colston's, a Toy-shop, against the Royal Exchange, Cornhill.

**A** Child almost Blind with a Humour in his Eyes, having also a large Ulcer above one of his Eye-lids, with some other Breakings-out in his Head and Nose, was likewise cured. The Truth whereof may be known at Mr. Steel's against Grange-Court, Little Lincolns-Inn-Fields.

**M**RS. Thomas's Child, who was dark of both Eyes with a sharp Humour, was likewise restored to her perfect Sight, as may be seen at her House in Northumberland-Alley, Fenchurch-Street.

**M**R. Lambeth, Field-keeper, at the Angel-Inn, in Islington, whose Daughter was blind of both Eyes, and likewise afflicted with some running Sores in one of her Arms, was Cured many Years ago.

To the Reverend Mr. Vickers in Sherbourn-Lane,  
Lombard-Street.

S I R,

**I** Send this to acquaint you, that my Daughter, who was Blind of both Eyes several Months, is now, by God's Blessing, and those Medicines you sent me, perfectly recover'd: She can see to Read, Write, and to Thread the finest Needle without the least Trouble or Concern. I pray God to bless your Endeavours for the Benefit of others, as he hath done for mine, who am, Your most obliged Friend and Servant,

Slanstead, Feb. 4. 1716-17.

Hertfordshire.

John Traherne.



**A** Child about 16 Months Old, having a violent Humour in one of his Knees, which had dislocated the Joint, whereby the Child was disabled from any Use of that Limb, is now perfectly Cured, the said Child being able to stand, walk, and go, as other Children do. The Truth whereof may be seen at Mr. Strong's House against *Wood's-Close*, the upper-end of *St. John's-street*, whose Parents will shew the Child to any Person desirous of that Satisfaction.

**A** Person of Quality's Child, seven Years Old, whose Sight of both Eyes were for several Months almost extinct, with a violent Defluxion of Rheum, and whose Nose and upper Lip was also extremely swell'd with the same Humour, is now perfectly Cured: The Truth whereof shall be manifested to any one desirous of that Satisfaction.

Reverend Sir,

**I** Hope you are in good Health. I should be glad to see you at Halstead. My Son, through God's Blessing and your Endeavours, is very well: He hath no Kernels in his Neck; his Eyes have not been sore a long time, and his Sight seems to be as good as ever. There is wonderful Notice taken, in these Parts, of your Success. Mr. Morley, asked kindly after you the other Day. You may assure your self I shall not be wanting to manifest your just Praises and Commendations to all People. My Wife and Son give their Services to you; so praying God to Bless your generous Designs for all Mankind, I rest,

Your humble Servant,  
William Holdman.

July, 1710.

**M**R<sup>S</sup>. Mary Gold, lodging at a Thread-Shop against the Pump in *Chancery-Lane*, having from her Infancy been much troubled with sore and weak Eyes; also with a violent Humour in her Nose and upper-Lip, was Cured by Mr. Vickers; the Truth whereof



whereof she will own to any Person desirous of that Satisfaction.

**M***ary Flaxman*, a Collar-maker's Daughter, about 18 Years of Age, living in *Kingsley, Buckinghamshire*, she was afflicted from her Cradle with a violent Inflammation and Fluxion in both her Eyes; her Sight also much obscured with large Specks, her Face, Neck and Shoulders much distemper'd with the same Humour; together with some other Illnesses common to her Sex: The Reverend Mr. *Hoskins*, Minister of the Place, importuned my Help for her Relief, whom I did Assist, and it pleased God that in two Months I Cured her so perfectly, that her Distemper hath not appeared these eleven Years.

Reverend Sir,

**N**O longer ago than Wednesday Night last, I saw your Patient, Mrs. Elizabeth Gilson, who not only looks well, but her Eyes (to all appearance) are as well now as mine: She can see to work with her Needle, without any Offence or Trouble. We have a poor Woman in the Town about 40 Years of Age, troubled with the same Distemper from her Cradle; if you can do her any good, pray let me know by the next Post, which will oblige your assured Friend and Servant,

Rector of *West-Wickham, Cam-*  
*bridgeshire*, December 2. 1710.

Allington Harrison.

**N. B.** Meeting with Mrs. Gilson's Father at *Lynton*, Sept. 4. 1718, he then told me, his Daughter, my Patient, was Married; that she had two fine Children living, without the least Sign or Appearance of any Hereditary Contagion.



To the Reverend Mr. *Vickers*, in *Sherbourn-Lane*,  
*Lombard-Street*.

S I R,

I Received yours, and should be glad to have seen you at *Melford*; but as the Length of the Journey prevents your visiting me, so it does my waiting on you at present. I have found every thing you sent me, succeed according to your Predictions, and exceed (tho' not my Hopes yet) my Expectations. I could not have thought I should have received so much Benefit in so short a Time: I am now (blessed be God) wholly at Ease. My Ulcers are healed up, and the Swellings in my Legs totally asswaged: And whereas before I could not set my Feet to the Ground, nor stand nor go without Crutches or Staff, I can now walk Miles without either. A more deplorable Cripple could not be seen in either of your *London Hospitals* than I was. I hope in a Fortnights Time to return to College. You have my Leave to communicate this Cure, my Name, and Habitation, to whom you please; and I pray God to prolong your Days, and make you the happy Instrument of doing good to others, who labour under the same Afflictions. So I rest,

Your most obliged humble Servant,  
*Long-Melford, Suffolk.*

F. B.

Reverend Sir,

THIS comes to acquaint you, that my Eyes are now perfectly well, ever since I left *London*; so I hope there is no occasion for a fresh Supply of your Medicines. I have some Thoughts of going to the Bath with a Relation; I therefore desire your Opinion if I may Bathe, or only drink the Waters; what you Advise, I will punctually Observe. I have also another Favour to ask of you; A Friend of mine seeing your Companion to the Altar, &c. (a Book much admir'd in these Parts) would have you to send down a Dozen and Half by the first Return of our Carrier, who



*who lies at the Rose-Inn, at Holborn-Bridge. So with  
mine, and Sister's Services, I am yours,*

M. M.

S I R,

**I** Am a poor Woman of this place, and have a Daughter which hath been under several Surgeons Hands, for a large hard Swelling in one of her Elbows, which hath contracted the Joint, that she cannot extend her Arm, attended with considerable Pain and Anguish: If you can do her any good, she shall come up, and I will requite you for all your Care and Trouble, to the utmost of my Power.

*Buntingford, Hertfordshire, Feb. 26. 1716.*

Your humble Servant,

*Ann Hall:*

N. B. *What Success I had with this young Woman; how strait and sound her Arm is, I appeal to the whole Town of Buntingford.*

**M**RS. Pollard, a Glover's Wife in Coventry, she had been afflicted many Years (from her Child-hood) with a Leprous Humour in her Neck, Arms, Thighs, and Legs; for the Cure whereof she had taken great Quantities of *Wood-Drinks* and *Mercurial Purges*, without any Effect. *June the 6th, 1715.* I gave her Directions for Diet, with Prescriptions, which she followed for about a Month, or six Weeks, which effected her Cure. She hath had a fine Child since, without the least Sign or Appearance of any Hereditary Contagion.

S I R,

**S**ince with God's Blessing, and those Prescriptions you advised, I am now cured of a grievous Distemper, under which I had laboured many Years, I think my self obliged to do you what Services I am able. The Bearer hereof is a Gentlewoman of my Parish, whose Disease hath defeated the Care and Skill



Skill of most Physicians and Surgeons in these Parts : She is a Mother of many Children, whose Loss would be a considerable Misfortune to the Family. This is the first Opportunity I have met withal, of recommending you ; may God Almighty prosper your Endeavours for her Sake and the Good of others, is the earnest Prayer of your most obliged Friend and Brother in Office,

*Chipping-Norton in Oxfordshire, Jan. 12. 1716-17.*

*Samuel Story.*

*Reverend Sir,*

**I** Received yours, which I sent to the young Lady your Patient, who now, blessed be God, is very well recover'd of her Distemper, and hopes she may continue so : But if otherwise, you shall hear the first Post. The Lady gives her Thanks and humble Service to you ; and so doth your most obliged humble Servant,

*Rector of Hickling,  
Nottinghamshire.*

*George Fisher.*

**M**RS. *Eliz. Wicks*, of *St. Edmond's-Bury*, who for two Years was dark of both Eyes, with excessive Pain in her Stomach, was, in the Year 1710, restored to the perfect Sight of both Eyes (enjoying the same ever since) by *Mr. Vickers* ; the Truth whereof, *Mr. James Wicks*, her Brother, will attest, living at the Sign of the *Grey-bound*, a Sadler's Shop, the Corner of *Column-Street*, in *Fenchurch-Street*.

S I R,

**I**F you remember, *Sept. 12. 1714.* I wrote to you concerning a Child of mine, a Boy, about six Years of Age, extreamly afflicted with a sharp corroding Humour in his Head, Neck, Eyes, Nose, and Lips ; you were then pleased to prescribe him Medicines, with Directions, and I do assure you, with God's Blessing, in two Months Time, they had such



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an Effect, the Child was as well as any other in the Parish, and hath continued so (God be praised) to this very Writing. If this Account will do you any Service, make what use thereof you please. I am, Sir,

Your most obliged humble Servant,  
*Thistleworth, Jan.*

4. 1717.

*John Fathers.*

To the Reverend Mr. *Vickers*, in *Sherbourn-Lane*,  
*London.*

*Reverend Sir,*

THE Imposthume in the Head of your poor Patient, *Sarah Green*, did break the last Week: She since finds herself much better, and can move her Arms with ease; her Sores elsewhere are likewise healed, and her Swellings also are asswaged. She desires to know, if she may continue the Use of those Means you have advised; or whether she may discontinue. Your speedy Answer will oblige your humble Servant, and Brother in Office,

*April 9. 1708.*

*Michael Stanhope.*

S I R,

WITH unspeakable Joy I congratulate you with the good News of my Son's Cure, attained, by the Blessing of God, and those Means you advised. I forbore Writing till the Spring and Fall were over, for fear of a Relapse, which, I thank God, I have no Reason to suspect. I intend to be in *London* within a few Weeks, to wait on you my self. Mr. *Jones*, the Child's Apothecary, gives his humble Service to you, and also our Vicar. God Almighty make me Thankful, and Bless your Endeavours for the Good of others, as he hath done for mine: So I rest your most obliged Friend and Servant,

*Sep: 9. 1716.*

*Mary Williams.*



**A** Gentleman's Daughter in *Bedford-Row*, near *Grays-Inn*, very much troubled with a sharp Humour in both her Eyes, upon whom all the common Methods, in such Cases, had been tryed without any Success: But by the Application of those Means I advised, in 14 Days she found so much Advantage, she could bear the Light of the Sun and Fire without Offence; and in less than two Months, her Eyes were as well as any in the Family. I do not mention her Name, but divers People, whom I sent to enquire of her Parents, have received full Satisfaction.

**D**R. *Brailsford*, present Dean of *Wells*, recommended a young Gentleman to me from *St. John's College in Cambridge*, with a large hard Swelling in one of his Elbows. The Humour, or (rather the Application of two Causticks) had deprived him of the Use of that Joint, that he could not extend his Arm; with a Fomentation, (which I advised) applied Morning and Evening, his Swelling was asswaged, and afterwards with other Means, his contracted Joint was reduced to its natural Straitness and Use: A Benefit I could not promise; and as ill requited.

**M**R. *Temings*, at the *Black-Boy and Still*, near *Shoreditch Church*, recommended a Youth to me, much distempered in his Eyes, with a sharp Humour, and Fluxion of Rheum, who, in two Months Time, by the Application of those Medicines I directed, was perfectly recover'd. The young Man is now an Apprentice to a Distiller in *Bishopsgate-street*. The Reverend Mr. *Price*, School-Master of *Stoke-Newington*, was an Eye-Witness of this Person's Cure.

A Practitioner in Physick, of good Business and Repute, about 30 Miles distant from *London*, was pleased



pleased to communicate the following Case to me,  
*Jan. 19. 1707.*

S I R,

**I**T's my Misfortune to have been afflicted with the *King's Evil* very near twenty Years. The first Appearance was a large Tumour on my Thigh, which broke and run ; several small Pieces of Bone came away with little or no Pain, except at the Times of Dressing. Next followed another such like Tumour, with a throbbing Pain in the *Inguen* of the same Thigh, which was open'd with a *Caustick*, and in about half a Year seemed to be well ; but afterwards, the Humour breaking out a-fresh, I felt a Pain hardly tolerable, having little or no Rest Night nor Day, without *Anodynes* ; for the Cure whereof I pass'd thro' a Course of Salivation, which did neither check nor alter the Course of the Humours ; but afterwards, several scrofulous Kernels appearing in the *Membrana-Carnosa*, I was under dismal Consternations, and not knowing what to do, I betook myself unto the habitual Use of a Diet-drink made of the *Woods*, with *Lime Water*, which after long Experience, prov'd as useless as all my other Applications. If therefore, you can do me any Service, I will generously gratify your Endeavours, and likewise make you Amends by many other Recommendations.

I am, SIR, your humble Servant,

*R. W.*

What Success my Method of Cure had upon this Gentleman, his own Words, in the following Letter, will testify.

*Reverend Sir,*

**I**Deferred Writing to you, to see if the Happiness I now enjoy by your Medicinal Advice, was like to last. I thank God I have been well, and free



from any Symptom of my former Humour, above these four Months, and therefore will not trouble you till the next Spring, if occasion be, which I hope not. The next Month I intend to be in *London*, to pay you my Respects and hearty Acknowledgments, for those great Services you have done for me.

Your most obliged humble Servant,

*Rocheſter, Nov. 3.*

*R. W.*

1707.

A Gentleman of a very good Family, afflicted with this Distemper 16 Years, had several large and deep Ulcers in one of his Arms, above the Elbow-Joint; and likewise one large Ulcer on each Shin-bone: His plentiful Fortune had commanded all the Help and Assistance for his Cure this Kingdom afforded; insomuch, that hardly a Man eminent either in *Physick* or *Surgery* escaped him. An Acquaintance of mine told some of his Relations of my Success, with several People whom they knew to be cured by me. But all availed nothing, himself and Relations alledging, that if those great Men, with whom they had already advised, could not cure him, they could not believe me capable of doing him any Service. Sometime after, the Gentleman sends for me, desiring that he might have my *Specifick* Remedy to take inwardly, with all those other necessary Instructions I judg'd conducive to his Cure, except the Dressing of his Sores, which he said were then under the Care and Management of so considerable an Artist, as the Serjeant Surgeon, that, without his Consent, he was not willing to trust me with any outward Applications. I answered, I must do both or none; and upon this we parted, without any Expectations, on my Side, to see or hear more of him; but after a few Days the Gentleman came again, and said he had obtain'd Leave for me to undertake both. I begun his Cure in *April* 1709. my self dressing his  
Ulcers.



Ulcers every Morning with my *Specifick* Cerecloth and Ointment, and obliging him to drink every Day, at least three Pints of my *Specifick* Liquor. In a Months time, those foul Bones, which himself and Friends feared I had not Judgment sufficient to deal with, drop'd out one Morning, when I took off his Dressings, and by the following *September*, he had not one Sore or Symptom of the *Evil* about him. After his Cure was finished, he went a Journey on Horse-back 300 Miles, and I have heard no Complaints of any Relapse.

A Gentleman living in *Islington*, brought his only Son to me, *April* the 10th, 1711. a sadder Cripple I am confident could not be found in any of our Hospitals than this Child was when I began his Cure; few People, but those who knew him, will credit his miserable Condition, were I to relate it at large, but now (thanks be to God) I may venture to challenge the whole County to shew a sounder, healthier young Gentleman than he is.

Returning from *Westminster*, a young Fellow at the Horse-Guards offered to carry me Home in his Hackney-Coach *gratis*; surprized with the Man's Civility, I ask'd the Fellow the reason of his kind Offer, who said it was in return (tho' a poor one) for Curing him of the *King's Evil*, the Tokens whereof he shewed by many Scars in his Face. For my own part, I don't remember the Man was ever in my Hands, but his Name is *Richard Robarts*, living (as he tells me) in the Coach-yard, *Katherine-Wheel-Alley*, *West-Smithfield*.

MRS. *Edwards*, who keeps a Fruiterers-Shop against the Church in *Greenwich*, had her Son afflicted with a Scurvy hard Swelling under one of his Ears, whose Constitution was none of the best. How the inward Application of this *Specifick* Remedy



dy should bring this Tumour to a speedy Maturation, I do not pretend to account for, but so it is, the Child had not taken of the Remedy above a Month, but his Swelling broke, run, and discharged it self, and then healed without any other trouble.

A Woman, a Nurse to a Ward in one of our Hospitals, brought her Son to me for the Cure of the *King's Evil* in his Face and elsewhere, at which I was much surprized, considering the Help upon easier Terms she might get for her Son among those knowing Physicians belonging to her House, her Importunity prevailed with me to undertake his Cure, which I did, with God's Help, accomplish in seven Months, the young Man now works Journey-work with an Upholsterer in *Fleet-street*, ready upon the least Intimation to vouch the Truth of my Success.

A Gentlewoman in *West-Smithfield* finding the great Advantage the last mentioned young Man had received from my Applications, she consulted me for the Cure of a Scalding, fretting Humour in her Face, Neck, and Shoulders, which had troubled her many Years. I advised her for the future to forbear her Purging, Vomiting, Bleeding, and Blistering, and only to take the *Specifick Drops*, and Powder in her common Table-drink. I forbear saying any thing of the good she found, she will give the best Account to any Person whom I shall send to enquire of her.

A Gentleman's Son living in *Greenwich*, had a very large Tumour on his Knee, which had contracted the Joint that he could not set his Foot to the Ground, which was taken for a white Swelling, besides some Breakings out elsewhere; his Father consulted me *May 29, 1711*. What my Success was in this difficult Case, I have Leave from his Honourable Parents to refer to them, any Person desirous of that Satisfaction.



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S I R,  
**Y**OUR little Patient read your Letter with great Satisfaction ; the Child, I bless God, is hearty and well, grown very fat, and goes without her Irons and Stick, neither hath she any Sores about her. I had a Mind to have the Opinion of two Physicians, and both conclude, the Child hath not now any Symptoms of the Evil about her. I am truly your Friend and humble Servant,

K. C.

**A** Young Gentlewoman, living in *St. Albans in Hertfordshire*, came to my House *Sept. 10. 1710.* She had some Swellings on both Sides her Neck, and a filthy Humour continually issuing from her Nostrils. She declared an utter Abhorrence of any kind of Physick, rather chusing to trust Providence, than to undergo any of those former Troubles and Fatigues, she had been treated with : I assured her my Method of Cure would neither give her Trouble nor Confinement. Upon this Condition she was willing to take the *Specifick Remedy* in common Table-Drink, which had so good Effect, that the Flux of Matter running from her Nostrils ceased in a Month's Time, and her other Swellings, by the end of the second Month, were all asswaged and gone ; neither can I learn, after many *Enquiries*, that since her Recovery she hath had the least Relapse. Her speedy Success under my Hands encouraged divers other People in those Parts, afflicted with the same Distemper to try the like Means ; and (I thank God) to their Content and Satisfaction.

**S**amuel Cook a Jeweller, applied himself to me, *Sept. 31. 1713.* for the Cure of his Left Elbow, and the Fore Finger of his Left Hand, the Elbow-Joint was so hard and extreamly swelled, an eminent Surgeon of this City did affirm no Cure could be had



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had without *Amputation*, the Joint likewise was so contracted, that to save his Life he could not extend it. Under these unhappy Circumstances I did undertake his Recovery; what my Success was, let any one (the young Man being since removed to *Banbury*) enquire of his Brother *Tho. Cook* a Jeweller, next Door to the *Half-Moon Tavern, Cheapside*; a greater Cure, I dare appeal to all Mankind, hath not been wrought within the Bills of Mortality these twenty Years.

*Loving Friend,*

**I**T's three Weeks since my little Boy begun to take the Drops and Powders, sent us by *WILLIAM VICKERS*, a Clergy-man; so I thought my self obliged to let thee know what effect they have had in this time. When my Child begun to take these Medicines, his Face and Lips were extreemly swelled, his EYES almost dark, little or no Sight appearing; but now, thro' Mercy, his swelled Face and Lips are reduced to their natural State; he never complains now of any Soreness or Uneasiness in his EYES, tho' heretofore at times of intolerable Pains. What he eats now is with an Appetite, and his Body in very good Order, tho' he hath taken no Physick since he begun with the Doctor. He used constantly to hide himself in some dark place with his Face on a Pillow, but now all Day long runs about playing with one thing or other. He can't yet open his EYE-lids, but the Doctor writes we word, as the Humour abates they will open of Course, whereof I have great Hopes it may be so, for I could not have thought so great an Alteration in so short a time could have been. The Child hath not been so hearty and easy this three Quarters of a Year, as he is these last three Weeks. I desire, the first convenient Opportunity after this comes to hand, thou go and drink a Bortle of Wine with the Doctor, and give my kind Respects to him, letting him know also we have no Powders, nor scarcely



( 57 )  
scarcely any Drops left. All thy Friends here are in  
good Health ; so concludes thy very Loving, and  
much obliged Friend,  
York City, the 16th  
of the 6th Month.

W.W.

*Another from the same Hand.*

York, the 17th of the 10th Month.

*My very kind Friend,*

**I** Am greatly obliged to thee for the Regard thou  
hast had for my Child's Welfare, which I must ac-  
knowledge has been very great, and thy Endeavours  
have proved successful, for which I am truly thank-  
ful. I know *Theodore Ecclystone* very well ; but my  
Child's Success is a sufficient Evidence of thy Judg-  
ment, to any one here-away desirous to enquire, of  
which I shall not be backward in making publick,  
that thou art a Man of great Skill in this Disease ;  
having already recommended thee unto several, par-  
ticularly unto two of our Friends this last Week ; but  
I find some are so united to this World, that sooner  
than part with a little of its Dross, they will hug  
about with them a Body of Corruption to their dy-  
ing Day. I am, with all due Respects, thy sincere  
Friend, tho' unknown,

*William White, jun.*

P.S. Your former Patient, *Mrs. Eliz. Thompson* is  
married.

**H**enry Sprateley, a Corporal in Major General  
*Holmes* Regiment of Foot-Guards, afflicted with  
many deep and foul Ulcers on each side his Throat,  
extending from Ear to Ear ; accidentally meeting  
with my Book at his Surgeon's House belonging to  
his Regiment, desired Leave to read it over. After  
which, the Man comes directly to me, perswading  
himself, if I would take him in hand, with God's  
Blessing, he might get his Cure. I bid him first ask  
H leave



leave of Mr. *Wilson* his Surgeon, and then he should be welcome to my Assistance, which he soon obtain'd. Accordingly I gave him the *Specifick* Liquor for his constant Drink, and Dressings for his Sores, with Instructions how to apply them. Not hearing of the Fellow in six Months, I concluded he was dead, and therefore, the 2d of *February* 1713. I called at his Quarters, the *Cock and Hoop*, the end of *Chancery-Lane* next *Temple-bar*, where I found the Man in perfect Health, his Ulcers sound and well; for my part I had never seen a poor Fellow in a worse Condition than this Man was.

N. B. *This Mr. Wilson I knew very well; a Man much esteemed for his Practice and Proficiency in his own Business; who would often say, He never found the stated Methods of Physick and Surgery available in these strumous Cases. Mr. Serjeant Wiseman, Lib. 2. p. 239. whose Skill and Integrity cannot be questioned, declares, the Contumaciousness of this Disease had not only eluded his best Care and Industry, but also some of the ablest Physicians and Surgeons in his Time. In the whole Art of Surgery, saith Dr. Sprengell, there is nothing more troublesome and vexatious to the Operator; insomuch, that after all his Labour and Pains that can possibly be employed, and the Application of the most approved Medicines, yet it is a very great Rarity if he procures any great Benefit to his Patient. Several old, able, and experienced Physicians and Surgeons, whom my Parents advised with for my own Cure, would frankly own they never got any Credit by meddling with this Distemper; and therefore accounted it no real Injury to their Practice for any Person to free them from that Trouble. For my own part, I can justly say, not one among an hundred ever seek my Assistance till such time as they have been tired out with (what are esteemed) the regular Helps of Physicians and Surgeons in City and Country.* A



A Gentleman living at *Clavering* in *Essex*, *Octob.* the 11th, 1712. sought my Assistance (by a Friend of his whose Son I had cured) for the Relief of his Daughter: The Humour was broke out in her Feet, and they much swelled; her Constitution also was *Hectick*, attended with Leanness and a Cough. I advised three Spoonfuls of the *Specifick* Liquor, mixed with a Quart of Spring-water for her constant Drink, and to give her likewise, Morning and Night, five Grains of the *Specifick* Powder, made up in some Sugar of Roses, and to dress her Sores Evening and Morning with the *Specifick* Cerecloth. What Success I had in this difficult Case, I appeal to the Reverend Mr. Long, Minister of the Parish, to the Child's Parents, and to many others in the Neighbourhood, Eye-witnesses of her Weakness and Recovery.

MRS. *Esther Smith*, Chamber-maid to a Physician's Lady in this City, had a Cluster of these *Scrofulous* Tumours on each side her Neck. Her Master, she said, had given her abundance of *Calomel*, *Mercurius Dulcis*, with some Gallons of the Decoction of the Woods. But finding no Advantage, she desired my Assistance, provided I would not let it be known to the Family where she lived: I told her I never mention'd any ones Name or Habitation, if desired otherwise. I convey'd my Remedies, with Directions to her by a second Hand; and in four Months she obtained her Cure. The Swellings wasted away insensibly.

A Young Man in *Fore-street*, near *Moor-fields*, came to my House, *April* 26. 1710. with several running Sores in his right Elbow. He wanted me to promise him a Cure. I told him, if he would try the same Means as others had done, he was welcome, but for Promises I never made any. He took



of my *Specifick Drops*, fifteen at a time, in his common Table-drink thrice a Day, with Dressings for his Sores, and Rules for his Diet. I had no other trouble but to give him what Medicines he wanted, and before *August*, he had not one Sore or Swelling about him.

MRS. *Eastwick*, living at the lower House but one in *Buckingham-Street*, *York-Buildings*, brought her Son to me with swelled Lips, and a sharp Humour in both his Eyes, which had troubled the young Man almost from his Cradle. The Gentlewoman was a Person of Character and Substance, and had spared no Expences for her Son's Good. For my part, I saw no occasion for Medicine; the removing an ill Habit the Boy had contracted, I thought might do the Business, which I advised; and therewith dispersed the Humour from his Lips and Eyes, nor can I hear of any Relapse since 1710.

A Gentleman's Child, much afflicted with this strumous Humour, was put under my Care for her Cure, *Aug. 16*, 1716. in one of her Knees she had a foul Ulcer, which perforated the Bone, threatening, in a short time, a total Deprivation of its Use. Her other Sores and Swellings were not near so bad. The Child, for the Benefit of the *Air*, was lodged at *Edmonton*, where I attended her three quarters of a Year before her Cure was perfected; of whom I may venture to affirm, without the least colour of Ostentation, there is not a finer young Woman in that Parish than she is; her Parents not scrupling, upon the least Intimation, to acknowledge publicly the great Service I have done their Child.

N. B. The same Year, and likewise in the same Parish, I cured three other Gentlemens Children, and a fourth at *Enfield*.



A Young Gentlewoman living in St. John's Square, came with her Father to my House, May 16, 1716. her Lips were much swelled, as were also both sides of her Neck. Her Father said, a Gentleman, upon whose Recommendation he applied to me, had given him great Hopes (from his own Experience of my Success) I would cure his Child also. I told him I should use the same Care to serve his Child as I had done for others ; more than this I never promised. Accordingly, the young Gentlewoman had six Viols of the *Specifick* Drops, and some small Papers of the *Specifick* Powder, with Directions how to take them. The Use whereof she continued till the following *October*, when her Father and she came to my House with their Thanks and Acknowledgments for my good Services. And if the Testimony of my Success in this case, will convince some Unbelievers, I have the Gentleman's leave to send them to his House for their Conviction.

Whether the *Leprosy* be a Species of the King's-Evil, or a distinct Humour, let better Judges determine ; but the Gentleman's Son (about seven Years old) of whom I now write, from the Crown of his Head to the Sole of his Feet, was (when brought into my Hands) overspread with one entire Scab ; and the Child, when warm in Bed, would scratch and claw himself with that Violence, his Linnen Pillow and Sheets would be stained all over with Blood ; for whose Cure all the known and stated Methods of Practice had been essayed. His Parents being able and willing to bear the Charge, I prepared a warm Bath made of the *Specifick* Liquor, in which some particular Herbs were boiled ; the Child sat for half an Hour up to the Chin every Morning coming out of his Bed. I advised likewise the taking of the *Specifick* Drops and Powder in his ordinary Table-drink. This Method the Child continued



nued six Months (the Bath being sometimes intermitted) and tho' I conceal his Name and Habitation for some Reasons, yet I can produce the Youth, with many other authentick Vouchers, to witness his Cure.

**C**apt. *Watkins's* Lady of *Debitford*, *July* the 10th, 1710. brought her eldest Son, (a Youth about eleven Years old) to my House, for the Cure of a filthy Humour in his Head, Nose, and Lips, with some knotty Swellings elsewhere; but these Evils were nothing in Comparison to his frequent Bleedings at the Nose when warm in Bed, whereby the Child was so extreamly emaciated, he look'd more like a dead than a living Creature; for the Cure whereof his Mother told me, the Help of regular Physicians had never prevailed, and therefore she importuned my Assistance if he was recoverable. I told her I could not warrant any Success, unless his Bleeding could be prevented, which it pleased God to enable me to do in fourteen Days time. The Boy hereby getting Strength by the habitual Use of the *Specifick* Drops and Powders, his other Difficulties were easily surmounted. He is now gone to the *Indies*, but his Uncle Mr. *James Watkins*, at the Bank of *England*, will, I dare say, give full Testimony of his Cure to any Person desirous of that Satisfaction.

**A** Lady of Quality near *Soho-Square*, brought her Grand-daughter, then about eleven Years of Age, to my House, very much afflicted with a Humour in her Nose and Upper-Lip, with some small Swellings in her Neck, a thick Matter usually discharging it self every Night from the Nose on her Pillow; her Constitution also was *Hedtick*, and her Appetite always craving (as most Peoples are, subject to these Illnesses). It was *Sept. 13, 1707.* when I undertook this Child's Cure, and by the following *August*, it pleased God to bless my Endeavours with that Success,



no one could discern she had ever been afflicted with any such Distemper, having continued free from the like Complaint ever since. Mr. *Maltus*, then living in *Pell-mell*, (Apothecary to the late Queen) was an Eye-witness of this Cure ; and I believe Monsieur *Bewshire*, if he recollects his Memory, must have Knowledge thereof himself.

A Lady living in *Great Marlborough Street*, April 9. 1710. being encouraged by a Person of Quality in *Poland-street*, whose Daughter I had formerly cured, sent her Woman with one of her Children to me, to know if the Child was troubled with the *King's Evil*, whose Lips were much swelled, and likewise a large scrofulous Tumour on the Calf of one Leg ; the Cause whereof a skilful *Spagirist* asserted was from the Worms ; but as Doctors don't always agree, it was my Opinion, the Child's Complaint was Strumous ; and in a little time, more of these Swellings would arise. My Predictions proving true, the Child was put into my Hands, whose Cure took me up ten Months before she was free from the Distemper.

N. B. That the Names and Habitations of some Persons mentioned in this Specimen of my Success, are concealed, People must not wonder at, because Persons of Worth and Distinction are not willing it should be known they have had any such Disease, lest it should prejudice their Families ; I have therefore, always taken care not to give Offence by such Publication, without Leave first obtained.

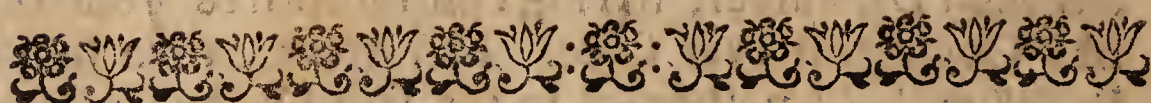
F I N I S.

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E R R A T A.

Title Page, read *Mor'os*. P. 16. r. *disperititi*. P. 43. r. *Stanstead*.





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